Concordia UNIVERSITY

GRADUATE STUDIES NEWS

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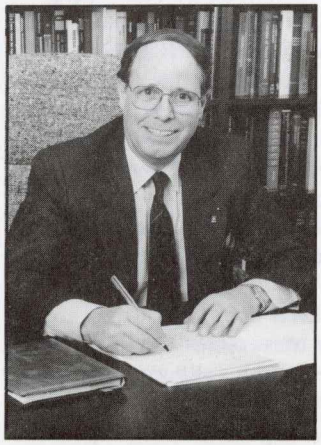
From the Dean's Desk

It's Never Too Late



Universities have an obligation to make the expression "learning is a life-long process" more than a slogan. At the turn of the present century, life expectancy was in the range of 50 years of age in North America; it is now approximately 75. Graduate schools have a unique opportunity in this respect and they should accept the challenge with vigour and imagination. The present world beckons us to deal with the fact that our populations are aging; they are healthier than previous generations; and they are becoming increasingly more educated. Graduate schools have a twofold opening in light of these realities.

Given the unique combination of research, the generation of knowledge, and the involvement of students who will contribute to tomorrow's world, graduate schools are ideally placed to create and to offer programs which can constructively confront the social, cultural, political, economic, medical, psychological, spiritual and physical worlds in which we live. It has become increasingly evident that if we are not prepared for the wonderfully complex world of tomorrow, we will be confronted only by its complexity and not by its wonder. Given the time it takes to create new programs, to integrate them into the educational system, and to bring them to maturity and richness of knowledge, graduate schools must initiate them now to prepare for the next century, when an even higher percentage of the population will be elderly.

Equally important is the need to provide doorways into graduate education for the older members of our society. Their life education joined with their formal education could readily make these individuals most unusual applicants and students in our graduate programs. Being equipped to deal with this new group of students does not suggest changing the quality of academic standards or the rigour of program demands. It certainly will require that we foster a deep and broad grasp of what knowledge is, and how it is that mature life experience integrates with what we call 'education.'

As universities search about for funding in the form of estate bequeathals, donations from individuals and families, and offerings from our alumni, we seek sustenance from our communities. We will continue to ask our communities to give generously to universities as those institutions which create and disseminate knowledge, and we should feel quite comfortable in doing so. The obverse of this obligation which we expect the community to have toward us is our obligation toward the aged. As we expect them to donate to us, so also should we provide openings for them. The human mind is one of our greatest resources and it rests within us to the end of our days. It should be nurtured, challenged, advanced and prodded. It should also be given the opportunity to return its wealth of experience into the educational system.

Graduate schools, those centers of research and knowledge seekers, are obvious locations for the in-depth study of the issues related to the fact that human beings grow old. Given the extended life expectancy of our educated society, our schools should find ways to attract this population to become active participants in our many diversified graduate programs.

M.E. Szabo
Dean

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Vice Rector Charles Giguere 's Views on Graduate Education

by Barbara Verity

Dr. Charles Giguere views the evolution of graduate studies at Concordia University from his perspective as Vice-Rector, Services and from his background as the first Assistant Dean for Graduate Studies in the Faculty of Engineering (now Engineering and Computer Science) in 1973.

"Sir George Williams — the predecessor of Concordia — had grown rapidly during the 1960's, significantly increasing the number of undergraduate programs which could be taken on a full-time and part-time basis. This growth went hand-in-hand with the hiring of new faculty, many of whom held doctorates from prestigious institutions," Dr. Giguere recalls.

"The time had come for the University to consider the development of graduate studies and research."

Dr. Giguere went on to play an important role in that development, which has earned for Concordia a nation-wide reputation in many disciplines.

He recalls the process. "Under the leadership of the Dean, Jack Bordan, the Faculty of Engineering chose two approaches. The first was built on the University tradition of providing local students with opportunities not available elsewhere. In this spirit, the Master of Engineering program created in the mid-1960's was originally available only to part-time students.

"The second, which gave rise to the Faculty's prodigious growth in research and its enormous contribution to the education of future researchers, was the creation in the late 1960's of a doctoral program in a limited number of disciplines chosen to complement what was being done elsewhere in Montreal. Faculty members were hired in the context of their potential contribution to these disciplines."

A major step forward came next when the Department of Computer Science became a full member of the Faculty of Engineering and Computer Science. Considerable soul-searching by administrators preceded this move to put the emerging, ill-defined discipline on an equal footing with Engineering.

Once a Master's degree program in Computer Science was created, Dr. Giguere piloted the development of a diploma program in the same discipline. It provided a vehicle for those who wished to obtain qualifications in the computing

Dr. Charles Giguere

sciences prior to entering a graduate program or for those who simply wanted to have the knowledge required to apply this technology in the workplace.

Ph.D in Computing Sciences

"The University's efforts in the early 1980's to establish a doctoral program in the Computing Sciences led to a fortuitous turn of events," Dr. Giguere says. "The Conseil des Universités initially turned back the University's proposal, noting that although the dossier was a good one and the faculty were well qualified, there was little need for Ph.D.'s in this area. The Conseil pointed to the low productivity of graduate programs at McGill and Université de Montréal, which together were only graduating one to two Ph.D. students a year."

Yet the explosion of interest in Computer Science studies had already occurred, Dr. Giguere says. "Undergraduate schools were being flooded with applications for admission to programs in Computer Science; departments and faculties were understaffed and overworked in order to meet not only the needs of their own students but to provide service courses to others; equipment was woefully inadequate; and corporate recruiters were tracking down graduate students with offers of first class equipment, exciting work and highly attractive salaries. 'Come now and put off your thesis,' recruiters were telling students."

CRIM

More exciting developments were in store. "I remember sitting one afternoon with Jack Bordan, then Vice-Rector, Academic, when we came up with the germ of the idea which eventually resulted in the creation of the Centre de Recherche en Informatique de Montréal — CRIM," he recalls.

"The time was right. Quebec senior civil servants and politicians were acutely interested in promoting the development of high-tech industry. Universities recognized that collaboration was essential if resources were to be made available in these areas. Key people in the private sector recognized the opportunity and potential benefits for their companies. And Concordia gave me the time I needed to bring it all together," he says.

Dr. Giguere was the Director of CRIM during its first two years, returning to Concordia in 1986 as Vice-Rector, Services.

Today, CRIM is booming. "There are seven member universities and more than 35 industries — and it's still growing. The annual budget is between $6 million and $7 million. To a large extent, it's responsible for the creation of a province-wide computer communications network linking researchers in all disciplines. Applied research contracts are carried out by teams of university faculty, graduate students, CRIM researchers and analysts," he says.

CRIM is an outstanding example of the benefits of close university and industry ties. Dr. Giguere adds that he doesn't think that contract or industrial research compromises the fundamental values of a university. Rather the two are complementary. When industry is willing to finance university research that tackles problems of concern to industry, both sides come out winners," he says.

"Graduate students also benefit because potential employers become aware that the research work done by the students is relevant to industry, thus increasing the students' chances for a job."

"There are all kinds of research problems out there in the community which are best addressed inside a university and are amenable to graduate degree work. This is the concept behind CRIM,"

he explains.

An example is voice recognition, which is only just becoming commercially viable. "But there are still a number of fundamental problems to be resolved. In order to best understand and research the problem, you have to see the problem from the viewpoint of the eventual user."

High tech areas are most amenable to close university-industry links. But Dr. Giguere also points to other areas — especially those approached through interdisciplinary studies. "The notion of interdisciplinary studies has always been there, and we've initiated a great deal in the area at Concordia," he says. "Urban Studies is an interdisciplinary field that could find solutions to problems posed by the complex social fabric of cities."

As Vice-Rector, Services, Dr. Giguere looks forward to his role in planning future resources for the University. His varied portfolio covers student services such as health, chaplaincy, financial aid, athletics, registrar, admissions and liaison; also, computing and audio-visual services, libraries, book stores, residences, food, printing, purchasing, mail and distribution. He manages the university's physical resources too — everything from broken chairs to long range space development.

As he points out, each research dollar brought to Concordia requires expenditures of one or two dollars in support by the University. "Such expenditures must be planned for well in advance if research monies are to be used effectively." Two key projects he foresees are a strategic space development plan and a management information system.

Dr. Giguere's 21 year career at the University has left him with a clear sense of what Concordia is all about. He speaks of a "Concordia culture."

"We have two tendencies that may sound contradictory. However, they are not. One is that Concordia is an urban university. We are in Montreal and of Montreal. With that comes the diversity and biculturalism of the city. There is a widespread feeling and belief in that."

"The other is that there is a commitment to excellence and to accessibility. The excellence is reflected in a lot of programs that are open, yet are based on the educational requirements imposed — without compromising quality."

Concordia's rank as one of the universities with the largest graduate studies programs in Canada and its pioneering spirit in disciplines such as Computer Science affirms Dr. Giguere's belief in a "Concordia culture."

Concordia's new library:

Providing Access to Knowledge

by Jennifer Keane

Access to good research facilities is a primary need of students, one which grows as they progress from the undergraduate to the master's and doctoral levels of study. Concordia University has been taking steps to face this challenge by bringing its library services up to date to meet academic needs.

On the Loyola Campus, renovations to the Vanier Library have been completed, providing both an improved practical and aesthetic study environment. The needs of students based on the Sir George Campus are now being addressed. Construction of the new Concordia Library is underway; it is scheduled to open in the Fall of 1992.

The new library will integrate the collection presently dispersed among the Norris and Science and Engineering Libraries, and the Shuchat Storage Depot. Study space has been carefully planned, and much attention has been paid to creating an atmosphere conducive to concentration and creativity.

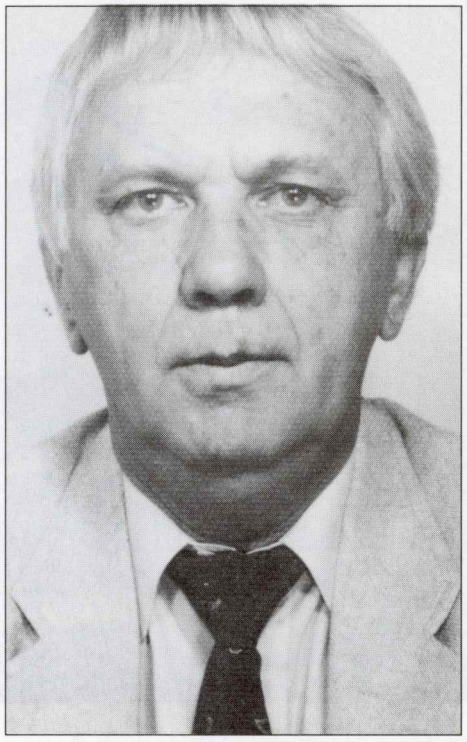
One of the people involved in the planning of the new library is Joseph Princz, a man whose experience with Concordia libraries goes back to 1964, when he began his career here as Head of Reference at the Loyola College Library. In 1987, he was made Associate Director of Libraries, Resources and Planning, with a special assignment to plan new buildings.

Now that the major planning for the library has been completed, Princz has returned to his former position, Head of Reader Services. In this capacity, he will help to fine-tune the services that the new library will offer.

'Transitional' services

Much of the of services is what Princz calls 'transitional,' and it mainly involves electronics. For example, while space has been allotted for the card catalogues, there is also a plan to have the catalogues accessible by computer terminals. Rooms will be set up to house the data and electrical lines that will become necessary as the library expands its computer data access systems over the coming years. There are plans for modem stations which will give students the opportunity to search data bases further afield, as well as plans for CD ROMs.

CD ROM stands for Compact Disc Read Only Memory. The discs contain some of the same information that could be accessed through modems, but the cost of using them would be less because there would be no long distance charges.



Joseph Princz

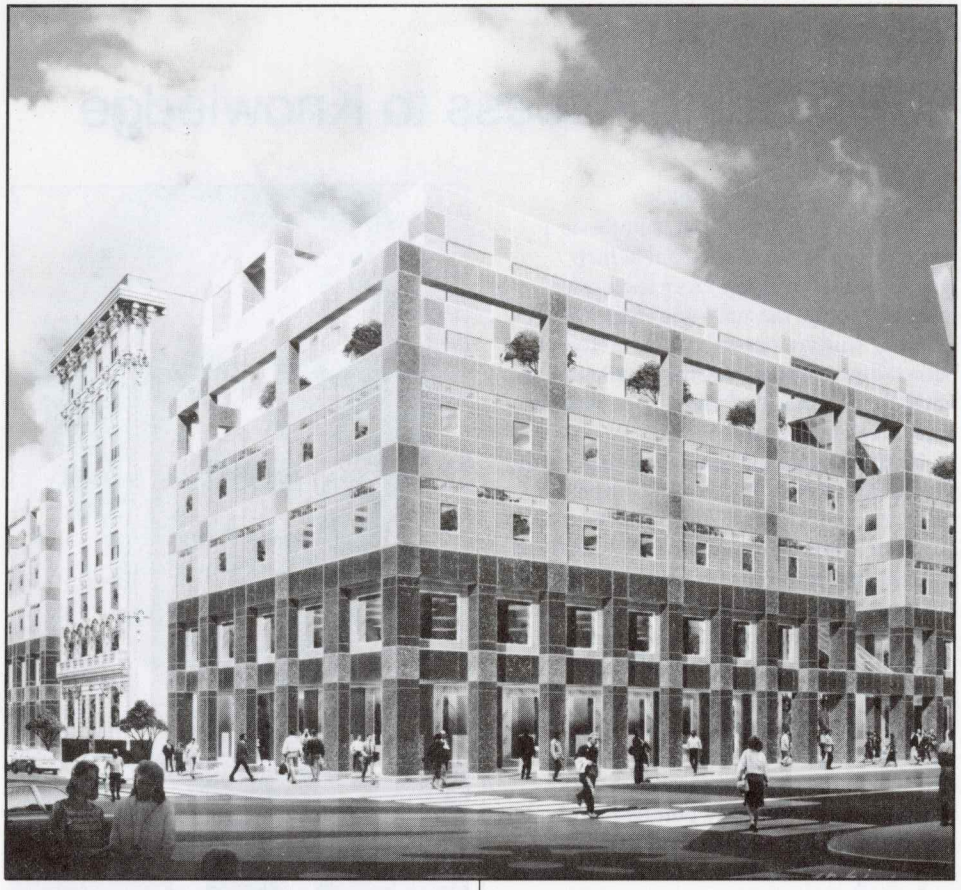
"Every attempt is being made to prepare for technological advances," says Princz, "our role is to act as the middleman for users to get in touch with all the information available."

Study areas will be more diversified than the ones presently available. There will be two conference rooms for team project work, for instance, and an area with 106 study stations specifically for graduate students. Study areas have been planned so they will take as much advantage as possible of the natural light that is a big part of the library's design.

Natural light

A lot of emphasis has been placed on the use of natural light. This has been partially achieved by placing offices and maintenance rooms away from windows, rather than having them around the perimeter, and also by the design of a huge skylight.

The skylight will measure 9 x 54



meters, and will provide light to all floors. Glass blocks will form the walls in the middle of the building, creating gallerias. On the main floor of the building will be Place Concordia. "This will be an arcade in the Greek sense," says Princz, "a meeting place." It will be comprised of a coffee shop, cafeteria, and a cinema, as well as other services still to be determined.

Incorporation of the Royal George building

One of the most interesting aspects of the new library is the incorporation of the Royal George apartment building. While early models of the library may have given some people the impression that the facade of the Royal George would be the only part saved, three floors of the building will in fact be incorporated. One floor will be for the use of graduate students, one will serve as an entrance, and one will house the map collection. All the details regarding interior decoration have not yet been worked out, but there will be an attempt to re-create the type of building it used to be. Princz promises that, "the Royal George will be a statement in favour of preservation and beauty."

In keeping with Montreal's image as an underground city, the library will be accessible by a tunnel from the Hall Building, an important advantage during winter months. Another entrance will be on Mackay, and the third, as mentioned, will be through the Royal George.

Concordia students have something to look forward to, as the university brings its libraries into the nineties with an eye to preserving the beauty of the past, and providing access to knowledge with the tools of the present and the future.

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Upcoming Doctoral Examinations

QU, Yan Zhen.
Computer Science
Date: October 12, 1990 at 10:00 a.m.
Location: H-961-29
Title: *Temporal Object-Oriented Database: Data Model, Formalism and Implementations*

SOTIRON, Minko
History
Date: November 16, 1990 at 9:30 a.m.
Location: H-762
Title: *From Politics to Profit: The Commercialization of Canadian English-language Daily Newspapers 1890-1920.*

VARIN, Luc
S.I.P. Biology
Date: November 16, 1990 at 2 p.m.
Location: H-762
Title: *Enzymology of Flavonoid Sulfation: Purification, Characterization and Molecular Cloning of a Number of Flavonol sulfotransferases from Flaveria spp.*

SHAW, Steve
Educational Technology
Date: November 30, 1990
Location: H-762
Title: *An Examination of the Arguments Against the Naturalistic Paradigm in Research in Educational Technology and their Implications for Current Research Practices*

LATCHINIAN, Lilian
Chemistry
Date: December 4, 1990 at 10 a.m.
Location: H-762
Title: *Biochemical and Immunological Aspects of O-glucosyl-tranferases Involved in Flavonoid Glucoside Biosynthesis.*

The examinations for the above students will take place in the Hall Building, 1455 de Maisonneuve West, Montreal.